



rivers&trails

National
Park
Service



rivers, trails, and conservation assistance program

THE ARIZONA TRAIL

Project Goal

To establish a multi-use trail from the Arizona/Mexico border to the Arizona/Utah border.

Background

The vision of a continuous border-to-border trail traversing Arizona's unique landscapes and historic areas has been on the minds of trail users through the years. One individual, however, took the dream one step further. Dale Shewalter, a hiking enthusiast and schoolteacher from Flagstaff, completed a 24-day scouting of such a trail during the summer of 1985. While walking from Nogales to the Utah border he visualized and tentatively mapped an interlocking route of trail systems traversing the state from north to south.

In 1993, several federal agencies and Arizona State Parks entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement to establish a framework to cooperatively plan for the development and completion of the Arizona Trail. The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) has been providing technical assistance to the project since that time.



National Park Service Role

RTCA's role has changed as the needs of the Arizona Trail project have evolved over the years. The following are examples of RTCA staff support:

- Instrumental in the formation of the Arizona Trails Association.
- Helped write the Arizona Trail Management Guide.
- Coordinated Arizona Trail activities between four national park sites.
- Researched private land ownership of various proposed trail segments to help locate feasible route alternatives.
- Assisted with the Arizona Trail Association's Strategic Plan.
- Secured funding and helped organize five trail construction and maintenance workshops to raise the trail building knowledge and skills of volunteers.



continued

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Project Results to Date

- 640 miles of trail on the ground (140 miles left to complete).
- \$43,000 in grants to support trail construction and maintenance training.
- 139 graduated from five trail construction and maintenance workshops.
- 30 trail events resulting in over 30 miles of new trail constructed, and 100 miles + of trail maintained.
- Completion of a five year strategic plan.



Project Partners

Arizona Trail Association
Numerous Clubs, Organizations, and Businesses
Arizona State Parks
United States Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service

Contacts

Jan Hancock, President
Arizona Trail Association
POB 36736
Phoenix, AZ 85067
Ph: 602-417-1216
hancockjan@aol.com
www.aztrail.org

John Neeling,
Director of Trail Operations
Arizona Trail Association
POB 87141
Tucson, AZ 85745
Ph: 520-743-4487
johnneeling@juno.com

Joe Winfield
National Park Service – Rivers & Trails
1415 North 6th Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705
Ph: 520-670-6501 x265
joe_winfield@nps.gov

2968 Rodeo Park Drive, West
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87501-0728



www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca
Ph: 505-988-6090
Fx: 505-988-6097